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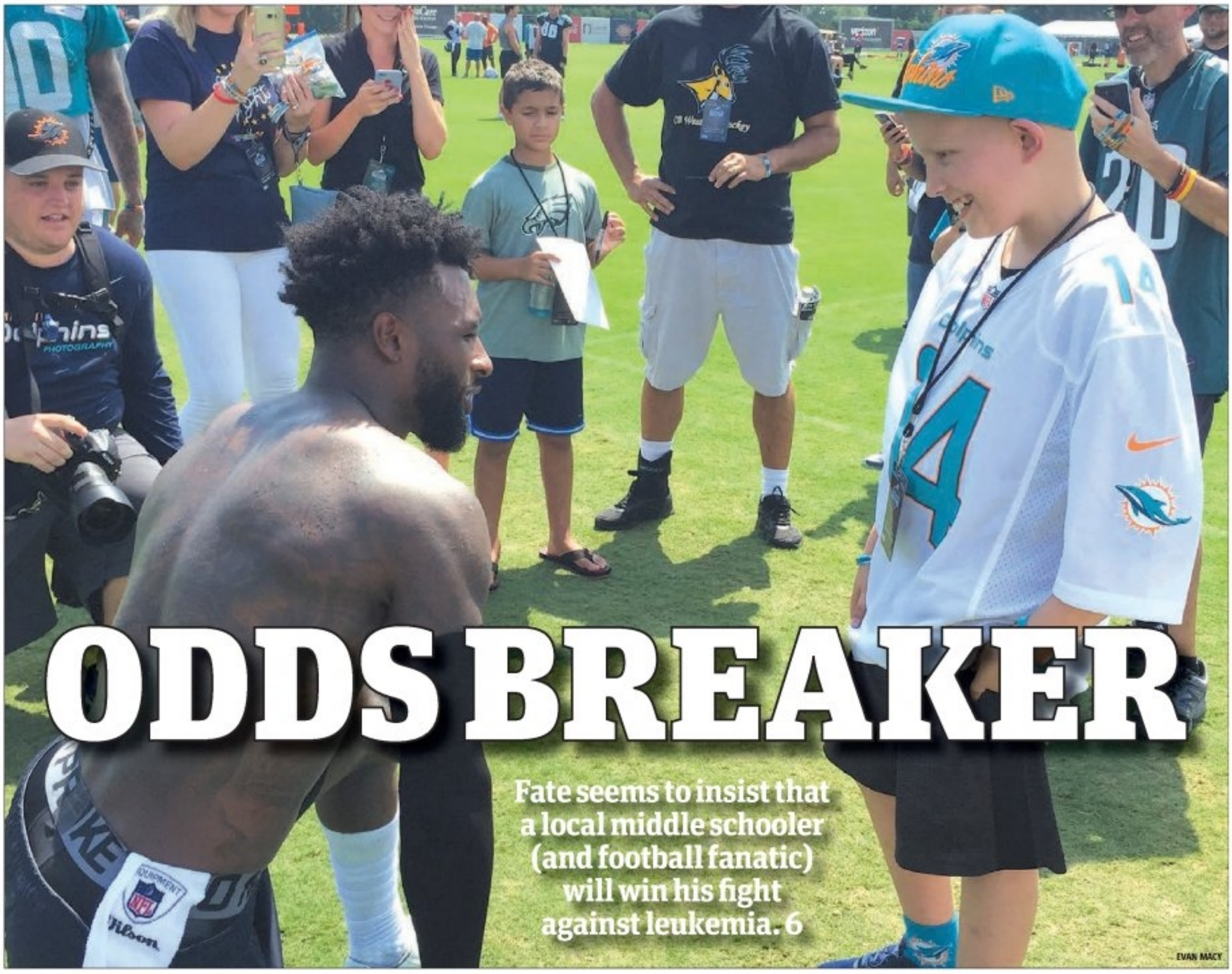
Wednesday, August 23, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhill

SEPTA TRAIN CRASH

Collision early Tuesday left 42 injured. 4

For Sixers, it's Joel Embiid or bust. 14

Talking with the Tick and his sidekick, too. 11



ODDS BREAKER

Fate seems to insist that a local middle schooler (and football fanatic) will win his fight against leukemia. 6

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LENYON WHITAKER, MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Good morning! Chelsea Clinton wants you and everyone else to leave Barron Trump alone. She recently defended Donald Trump's youngest son Barron in a tweet after the conservative news site Daily Caller published an article bashing the 11-year-old's fashion choices. Find out what she said at **metro.us/news.**

US PUTS MORE PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN TO HELP

The U.S. put more pressure on Pakistan to help it with the war in Afghanistan, suggesting it could downgrade Islamabad's status as a major non-NATO ally if it does not crack down on Islamist militants. A day after President Donald Trump singled out Pakistan for harboring Afghan Taliban insurgents and other militants, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Washington's relationship with Pakistan would depend on its help against terrorism. "We are going to be conditioning our support for Pakistan and our relationship with them on them delivering results in this area," Tillerson told reporters. U.S. officials are frustrated by what they term Pakistan's unwillingness to act against groups such as the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network. Pakistan denies that it harbors militants fighting the U.S. and Afghan government.

CHARLOTTESVILLE TO COVER STATUES

2 City councilors in Charlottesville, Virginia, voted unanimously on Tuesday to cover two statues of Confederate war heroes in black fabric after ejecting spectators from a chaotic council meeting as residents demanded answers over how a recent white nationalist rally turned deadly. Many activists and local residents crowded into the meeting, which began late Monday and spilled into the wee hours of Tuesday. It was the first council meeting since the Aug. 12 rally, when a car plowed into a group of counter-protesters and killed a 32-year-old woman. Many at the meeting shouted at the councilors and Mayor Mike Signer, forcing them at one point to leave the chamber. Videos posted on social media showed some in the crowd yelling "shame" and "shut it down" and calling for Signer's resignation.

EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY

3 Volunteers and rescuers on the roof of a destroyed house look for the missing in Ischia. In the night, a 4-degree earthquake struck the island of Ischia, near Naples in Campania, southern Italy, causing two deaths and the destruction of many homes. There are also several missing and three still-living children under the rubble.

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

BODY REMAINS FOUND IN HULL OF US DESTROYER

4 Divers found some human remains inside sections of a U.S. guided-missile destroyer that collided with a merchant vessel near Singapore. The USS John S. McCain and the tanker Alnic MC collided on Monday while the U.S. ship was approaching Singapore on a routine port call. The impact tore a hole in the warship's port side at the waterline, flooding compartments that included a crew sleeping area. U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Scott Swift said an international search-and-rescue operation had found some remains and that the wider search for 10 sailors missing from the accident would continue until all hope was exhausted. "The divers were able to locate some remains in those sealed compartments during their search," Swift told reporters at Singapore's Changi Naval Base.

BARCELONA TERROR CELL PLANNED BIGGER ATTACK

5 An alleged member of an Islamist cell suspected of carrying out last week's Barcelona van attack told a Spanish court that the group had been planning a bigger strike using explosives. The testimony to a closed hearing at Spain's High Court came from Mohamed Houli Chemlal, one of four detained suspects brought to Madrid to testify for the first time in court about the plot. Two of the suspects told the court that Abdelbaki Es Satty, the imam in the small town in northeastern Spain where many of the group came from, was the instigator, the source said, adding that the public prosecutor had asked the judge to send all four to jail while investigations continued. El Mundo newspaper said Chemlal told the court that the group planned to attack architect Antoni Gaudi's landmark Sagrada Familia church and other monuments but this could not be confirmed.

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An investigation into Tuesday's crash has been handed off to the NTSB. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

SEPTA train crash leaves dozens injured

A collision early Tuesday left 42 commuters injured.

AMY RUSSO
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Dozens of injuries were reported early Tuesday after a commuter train slammed into a parked train at a terminal in suburban Philadelphia, according to transit officials.

SEPTA has handed an investigation into the incident over to the National Transportation Safety Board.

An incoming Norristown High Speed train hit the stationary train at the Upper Darby 69th Street Terminal just after midnight at the 69th Street Station that is just outside Philly's border in Upper Darby, according to Heather Redfern, a SEPTA spokeswoman.

All 41 passengers aboard the train and one SEPTA employee were injured. The parked train was not occupied at the time of the incident.

"There was blood everywhere," one commuter said to CBS Philly. "There was this driver all banged up, and there was this one girl bleeding out of her face pretty bad."

Redfern said a total of 42 people had suffered injuries, although none are life-threatening.

The driver of the train was treated and released from the hospital. Trains ran normally throughout the day.

The cause of the crash has not yet officially been determined.

42
NUMBER OF PEOPLE INJURED

Haverford murder suspect caught Tuesday in Georgia

The U.S. Marshals Office said police arrested a man sought in the July 29 killing of a 24-year-old man in Haverford Township.

According to law enforcement officials, Derrick Hershal Rollins, 24, was arrested at about 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, in Decatur, Georgia, within the Hidden Villas apartment complex, located along the 2900 block of Panthersville Road.

Rollins has been sought for his suspected involvement in the murder of John Le, of Narberth, who was killed in a shooting at about 6:10 p.m. July, 29, along the 2300 block of Haverford Road.

Police said that on Tuesday, Rollins initially attempted to hide from investigators but he surrendered to police K9 units after police surveillance teams, allegedly, observed him at the complex with a female associate.

According to law enforcement officials, the arrest came after investigators in the U.S. Marshals Office in Philadelphia developed information that suggested Rollins had fled to Georgia.

Derrick Hershal Rollins, 24, was arrested Tuesday in connection with a fatal shooting in Haverford. PROVIDED

Rollins is currently being held in the Dekalb County Jail pending extradition, law enforcement officials said.

Along with his suspected involvement in Le's murder, Rollins was also wanted for aggravated assault in relation to a shooting which took place along the 1700 block of N. 77th Street, on the same day of Le's death.

The Marshals Office said that Rollins has a criminal history that includes multiple arrests for robbery, firearms and narcotics violations.

At the time of his apprehension, there was a reward of $7,500 for information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of Rollins, a police representative said Tuesday. HAYDEN MITMAN

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Eagles, Dolphins and fate 'Light the Night' for middle school leukemia patient Harrison Willing

Local football fan Harrison Willing met his heroes at NFL training camp Tuesday, thanks to the Light the Night campaign.

EVAN MACY
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Things just seemed to come together somehow.

Harrison Willing, a 13-year-old eighth grader from Quakertown has been a diehard Dolphins fan ever since James Harrison swapped Steelers gold for Miami blue a few seasons ago.

The team, not the player, stuck, and watching Jarvis Landry, Cameron Wake and others battle their way into the playoffs last winter helped make Harrison's battle with leukemia a little bit easier.

So it was perhaps serendipity that just an hour from his house, the Dolphins were in town from Miami partaking in a joint practice with the Eagles Tuesday morning.

A few weeks ago, the phone rang and a group called Light the Night arranged to have Harrison meet Landry and Wake while watching the Fins practice up close and personal in what they call a "random act of light."

"It's fate," Harrison's grateful mom Danielle said. "It is very cool — it means a lot to him, the Dolphins mean a lot to him. We have our 'Team Harrison' bracelets, and he picked out the colors, Dolphins colors, and it keeps his focus on something else. He knows he is a winner no matter what."

Winning in football means nothing when compared to a battle between life and death, and thanks to a welcoming community back home near his middle school, Strayer, Harrison's support group has lifted him up since his January 2016 diagnosis (and through an April 2017 relapse).

"Oh, my gosh, everybody has really rallied for him," Danielle said. "It's been amazing. He's not the kind of kid who craves attention or who wants attention, and now he has it. From yard-sale fundraisers to all kinds of things people have done for him, it's incredible."

Fate, again, played a role Monday night, as Harrison just happened to be released from the hospital less than 10 hours before practice at the NovaCare Complex in South Philly was set to begin. But that didn't really matter. Harrison would have found a way to meet his heroes one way or another.

"We were going to make it," Harrison said, interrupting his mother. She then added: "His doctors were on board to get him here no matter what."

"He's got a no-fail attitude. He's got this."

After being treated to a spot in the Brian Dawkins tent and having a front row look at the Eagles and Dolphins as they scrimmaged together the entire morning, Harrison and his family — his dad, sister and mom — and staffers from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, who arranged the adventure, waited patiently to meet his favorite players.

"Just seeing Harrison's face, as not only his favorite players walked out with his wristbands on, but also Eagles' players was amazing," the director of the program, Lauren Innanucci, said. "Maybe on the field [the players] don't love each other, but off it, they support one another and anyone who is going through a tough time."

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz confirmed Innanucci's suspicions, saying he relishes the opportunities he and his fellow NFL players get to interact after practice ends.

"It's a practice for us," Wentz said. "We come out after a long couple hours practice — we are hot, tired and sweaty, and the fans are stoked. They are hot, tired and sweaty too, and it's really cool to see the kids after practice to bring you back down. You might be high or low after practice, but they are always the best part."

There is no doubt Harrison will have his autographed Dolphins hat and the glove Landry gave him by his side as he undergoes a bone marrow transplant in a few weeks — as his battle continues, a battle that Team Harrison knows it will win.

Cameron Wake, Harrison Willing and Kenny Stills at football practice. EVAN MACY

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Ben & Jerry's founder at discussion on taking money out of politics

Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben and Jerry's, will be in Philadelphia on Tuesday night to talk about getting big money out of politics. PROVIDED

One of the founders of the famed ice cream company was in Philly on Tuesday to discuss adding a new amendment to the Constitution.

HAYDEN MITMAN
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letters@metro.us

Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's, may be best known for what he adds to his frozen treats — like the cherries and fudge in the company's famed Cherry Garcia ice cream — but, on Tuesday, he was in Philadelphia to talk about his passion to see something removed from politics: big money.

Cohen was joined from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Philadelphia Brewing Co. by state Rep. Frank Dermody (D-33rd Dist.) along with Mike O'Brien, the Democratic state representative representing the river wards' 175th district, as well as state Rep. Brian Sims (D-182nd Dist.) and state Rep. Pam DeLissio (D-194th Dist.) to discuss a resolution recently introduced in Harrisburg.

The resolution — HR 440, introduced by Dermody — calls on Congress to create a 28th amendment to the Constitution that would clarify "the distinction between the rights of natural persons and the rights of corporations and other legal entities under the First Amendment, and giving Congress and state legislatures the power to regulate political contributions and expenditures."

"Voters are fed up with big money and special interests pulling the strings in Washington. We need to dramatically reform how we elect our leaders so that people, not money, govern. The 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution will do that. The time to act is now," said Ben Gubits, the associate director of American Promise, the group that organized the event.

Essentially, the resolution would seek to overturn the 2010 Supreme Court ruling on Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission, which found that the First Amendment — or free speech — prohibits the government from putting limits on how much money corporations can spend to influence political elections.

On Tuesday, Cohen was traveling and unable to talk for this article. However, state Rep. O'Brien said that he supports the resolution because corporations might not always have the best interests of the public in mind.

"They don't always have a solid relationship with the communities that they are located in but will leave at the moment that is of benefit to them," said O'Brien in an interview Tuesday. "You can see it in Donald Trump's industries. … When it doesn't benefit corporate America, they are just going to nail it shut and not give a damn. That's why something like this is important."

O'Brien said that by putting a cap on election spending, candidates could be judged by their policy, instead of the promises they have made to corporate donors. The move, he said, would also give a candidate's potential constituents more power during an election by helping to "keep decision-making with the people who live there."

"Get the money out of politics. I'd like to see a cap put on it and put everyone on equal footing," said O'Brien. "Make it a question of policy, you know? What are you going to do?"

According to details provided by organizers of Tuesday's event, 19 states and over 800 cities and towns have passed 28th Amendment resolutions with cross-partisan support, while in Montana and Colorado, voters have approved 28th Amendment ballot initiatives, both with 74 percent support.

If Dermody's resolution passes, Pennsylvania will become the 20th state calling for a 28th amendment.

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Philadelphia Union soccer team gets chief tattoo officer

The crew from Bonedaddys Tattoo will give tattoos to various members of the Union organization.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
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Tattooing is serious business for one local sports team. A.D. AMOROSI

For a guy fascinated by tattoos and sports, becoming the first chief tattoo officer (CTO) for a local, major league soccer team is a dream come true. That's the goal that Bonedaddys Tattoo founder and Delco native Jay Cunliffe scored by becoming the official CTO to the MLS' Philadelphia Union soccer team.

Team members and tattoo crew alike hooked up on Monday at Bonedaddys in Aston, with Cunliffe and his crew giving tattoos to various members of the Union organization, including defender Richie Marquez, Union fan group Sons of Ben boss Corey Furlan, and Doug Vosik, Union VP of marketing.

"The shop is amazing, it's really cool," Marquez said. "When the best stand out, you can tell the difference, and that was the case."

When the Union announced in February that they were looking for a chief tattoo officer, they fielded applications from over 150 candidates.

"Somebody tagged me with the Union's search and I filled it out without thinking," said Cunliffe. "I even forgot I had done it until we were notified that we had made it down to the final 13. Suddenly I thought that being a CTO could be pretty cool."

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Millionaire wife of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin calls Oregon mom 'out of touch'

Louise Linton accused an Oregon mom of being out of touch. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Louise Linton, millionaire wife of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, attacked an Oregon mother for "being out of touch" while simultaneously mocking her for not being wealthy enough.

On Monday night, Linton posted a photo of her husband and her getting off an Air Force jet, hair blowing in the wind. Linton tagged the designers she was wearing.

"Great #daytrip to #Kentucky! #nicest #people #beautiful #countryside #roland-mouret pants #tomford sunnies, #heresscarf #valentinorockstudheels #valentino #usa," Linton wrote.

It wasn't Linton's misuse of hashtags that got her in trouble — it was that she was treating an official trip like a runway fashion shoot.

"Glad we could pay for your little getaway. #deplorable," wrote jennimiller29.

In response, Linton examined jennimiller29's Instagram feed, noting the Oregon mother's children in a response filled with classist attacks.

"@Jennimiller29 cute!....Aw!! Did you think this was a personal trip?! Adorable! Do you think the US govt paid for our honeymoon or personal travel?! Lololol. Have you given more to the economy than me and my husband? Either as an individual earner in taxes OR in self sacrifice to your country? I'm pretty sure we paid more taxes toward our day 'trip' than you did. Pretty sure the amount we sacrifice per year is a lot more than you'd be willing to sacrifice if the choice was yours. You're adorably out of touch. Thanks for the passive aggressive nasty comment. Your kids look very cute. Your life looks cute," Linton wrote.

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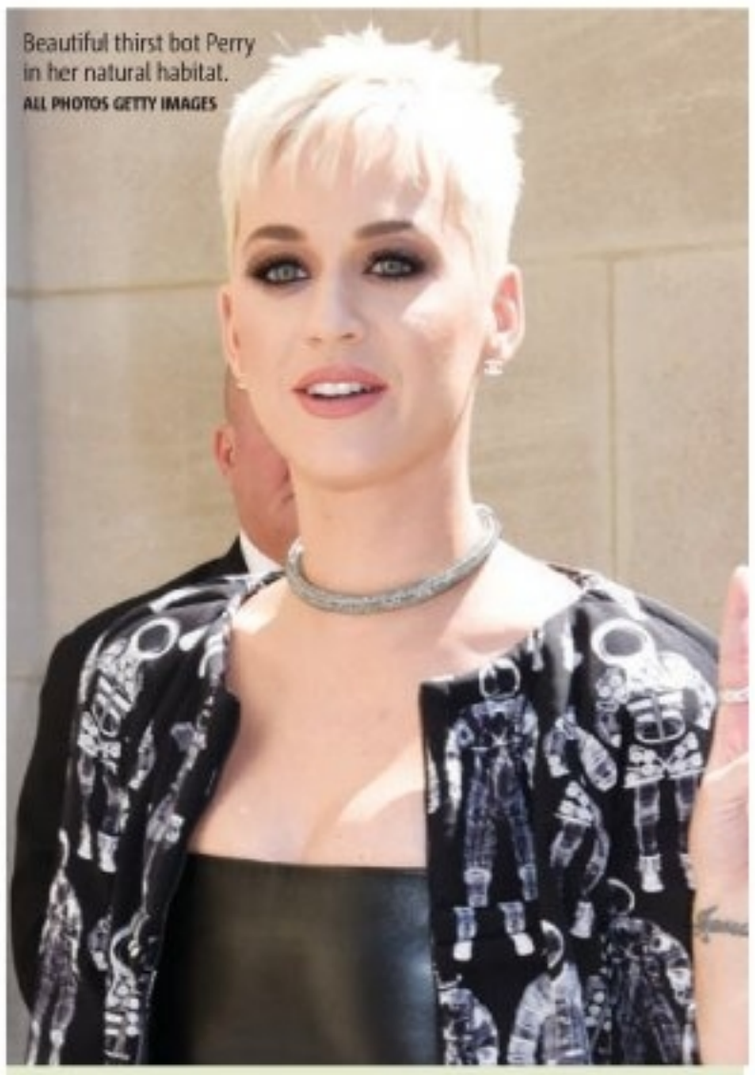

Beautiful thirst bot Perry in her natural habitat.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Katy Perry plays coy

Katy Perry is playing coy about the recent rumors that she and ex-boyfriend Orlando Bloom are back on. If she could just go away for a tiny bit and give us all a break, I would like that very much.

During an interview on SiriusXM's "The Morning Mashup" earlier this week, the singer addressed said rumors, saying "Well, you know, I think people are in and out of your life. It's nice to keep people you love around you," Perry, explained. "When you get older, lines get blurred. And you know what? I'm really busy. I'm about to go on tour for another year."

So, yeah. Not really sure what she's trying to say here. Is she doing this thing? Is she not? Is there just a swirl of melted cotton candy where her frontal lobe should be? Because, that's like, kind of her thing? So many questions, so few answers.

Anyway, this is all because Perry and Bloom were spotted getting cozy at an Ed Sheeran concert a couple of weeks ago. Of course they were. Because nothing is more romantic than those Ed Sheeran songs you hear in the grocery store.

Miles Teller is engaged

In case you're interested.

Miles Teller — a man once praised by Esquire for kind of being a dick — put a ring on it. That's right: the "Fantastic Four" actor is engaged to longtime girlfriend Keleigh Sperry. Cool, I guess!

Teller reportedly proposed on a safari in Africa, which, why? The couple, who have been dating since 2013, waited to announce their news so as not to upstage Sperry's sister, who got married in July. How very nice of them.

Teller is usually in the news for some tomfoolery, so this is a nice change of pace. Well, at least it's better than the last time we talked about him — when he partied hard and got arrested for said partying. For a moment, he was just like any other normal, getting garbaged in San Diego and then getting arrested for public intoxication. You know, as you do.

Anyway, congratulations, I guess!

Mariah Carey too has low self-esteem

If Mariah Carey has low-self esteem, what hope is there for the rest of us?

In an interview with Page Six, the pop diva admits that she suffers from "low self-esteem," but I for one am not convinced that she knows that those words mean, especially when used together. "I just feel like I am a regular human being and I deserve the same respect as anybody else," she said.

Which, she knows she's lying, right? Like, sure, she's a human being. But she knows that we know that she thinks she's better than human, right? She's a dang diva. And that's fine!

"I have always had low self-esteem," she continues. "And people do not recognize that … I can't measure what type of respect I deserve — I really can't."

Is Mariah trying a new look on? Like, a humble one? Because, do not want. Imagining a world where Carey has low-self esteem is not a world I want to live in, no thank you.

But yeah: The diva to end all divas is trying on humility for size. And babygirl, I have to tell you: it's not a great fit. You're better than humble, babe. You're Mariah.

Whatever you say, honey.

Griffin Newman: Trump just needs the Lasso of Truth

Newman and Peter Serafinowicz — stars of "The Tick" — nerd out about comics, comedy and of course, dumping on Trump.

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Can't get enough of these two.
JESSICA MIGLIO/AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Sitting down with Griffin Newman and Peter Serafinowicz, who play the slightly unhinged heroes of Amazon's "The Tick," we notice right away that the mismatched pair mirror their characters. Newman shuffles in first, his hands clenched inside of his sweater, impossible to see beyond his sleeves. Serafinowicz follows — a gentle giant with a soft, inviting British accent. "Cool glasses, by the way," he says — and man, does this dude believe in eye contact. "Do they do a monocle in those?"

After that, he dismisses the PR woman who has been hovering near the door and the three of us get down to brass tacks. What was supposed to be a quick round of lightning questions turns into something that's less an interview and more watching Newman — who plays the nebbish sidekick-turned-hero Arthur Everest, and Serafinowicz, the Tick himself — have their own conversation, where we're allowed the occasional aside.

Here, we talk comics, sketch comedy and how to undo President Trump's misdeeds.

"The Tick" is the first time either of you have played a superhero. Who are some of your favorites?

Griffin Newman: My boring answer is Spider-Man. He just so archetypically represents everything that I love: the outsider as superhero. Someone who has all this power, but never feels high status and is so defined by their choice to do the right thing rather than being innately heroic. It's an act of decision on a daily basis.

I really like the new Ms. Marvel. Centurion is another Marvel character I love.

Peter Serafinowicz: So what was the question? What are your favorite 25 superheroes?

GN: Yeah, I got 22 left to go.

What's your favorite comedy on TV right now?

GN: "Fleabag" is my favorite thing I've seen in the last year. It's a perfect example of "it's the singer, not the song." Because you can't describe that show to anyone and make it sound like anything you haven't seen a thousand times. It's just how well executed it is, and how specific the character is. It's a brutal show at times.

PS: I love "Better Call Saul," which is less of an out-and-out comedy. But it has two of my all time favorite comedians, Michael McKean and Bob Odenkirk. They're just f—king amazing actors. Particularly Bob — he's such a great actor and nobody was as familiar with him in that capacity.

What superpower do you think we need to take down the current administration?

GN: We have this conversation every day on set — what is it going to take that would actually do this guy in?

PS: In all honesty, there must be spies ready to assassinate him. This is the way the world works, isn't it?

GN: It would be the most cathartically satisfying thing if you could get him under Wonder Woman's Lasso of Truth. Get him tied up for just 30 minutes and get him to just admit he doesn't care about anyone. I think he's physically incapable of telling the truth without a lasso.

PS: What I would do is get Superman to kiss him passionately for a long time. Like 10 minutes. And he would forget everything that he learned since he was a baby. But if Trump had the mental faculties of a baby, of a one-day-old baby, he would still thrive in the f—king White House.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

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Tria Cafe Fitler Square hosts Farewell Party next week

The restaurant location will close after two years.

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On Monday, Aug. 28, the Fitler Square neighborhood will say goodbye to Tria Cafe Fitler Square, located on the cozy corner of 23rd and Pine Streets.

To bid farewell in style, the restaurant will host a Farewell Party with going-away prices on sparkling wine, select cheeses and craft beer.

Twenty-percent of proceeds from the event will go to the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League.

"We look forward to sharing one last night with our friends and neighbors in Fitler Square, and we hope they will join us in making this occasion about something greater than ourselves," says Tria owner Jon Myerow.

Tria Cafe Fitler Square closes its doors on Sunday. STEVE LEGATO

"This event is not about red vs. blue. It's about my young children not enduring the Nazism that my father fought against in WWII. For our diverse and inclusive staff, it's about love vs. hate. There is no political ownership of kindness. It's just the right thing to do."

Tria hopes to raise $2,000 for the NAACP and the ADL. In addition, representatives will be on site to talk about their work and accept additional donations.

"Even if we achieve our goal, $2,000 is a drop in the bucket," says Myerow. "But as with good wine, every drop counts. We look forward to hosting our final night at Fitler Square for a good cause — with plenty of wine, cheese and beer, of course."

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SUNNY MONTEFIORE
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For once, the internet isn't obsessing out over a crazy epic online Cyber Monday deal. Or crazy-good Amazon Prime day deal. In fact, the collective interwebz is not even freaking out over an amazing hotel sale. This time, it's about your ability to buy groceries, beauty products and home and office goods online. Yes, really.

The day has come to rejoice over Brandless. What is Brandless, you ask? This fabulous online megagrocer sells everything for a measly $3. No gimmicks. No weird scams. No hassle of, you know, going to the store and shopping in person.

At Brandless, shoppers can peruse and purchase everything from organic sweet-potato tortilla chips ($3) and toasted coconut cooking thins ($3) to white-cheddar-flavored quinoa puffs ($3) and organic fair trade medium roast ground coffee (you know how much it costs).

Beyond the food aisle, there's a heck lot more to explore. For household joy, try their multi-surface cleaner (we don't need to tell you how much things at Brandless cost anymore, now do we?) or eucalyptus and lavender gel hand soap.

In the beauty department, there's daily facial moisturizer, organic cotton balls and more. For your home, try a pizza cutter, vegetable peeler, or serrated bread knife. Why not tack on a can opener to replace your vintage, ahem, rusting old one from your parents? For $3, you really don't have much to lose.

According to PureWow, there's a reason it's so cheap. "[It's something Brandless] calls BrandTax, or the hidden costs you pay for a national brand. The thinking is that we've been trained to believe these costs increase quality, but they rarely do. By taking the brand name out of the equation, Brandless strives to sell the same quality goods for a fraction of the cost."

Whatever the reason, we're more than a little stoked for our new craft paper hard cover bound notebook. This $3 Brandless delight will be an easy place to jot down our next shopping list for the brilliant site.

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For Sixers, it's Joel Embiid or bust

The Sixers' success in 2017-18, and beyond, is contingent on a healthy and productive Joel Embiid.

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Joel Embiid's health will be key to the success of the Sixers, as he is the big man in the middle — and the team's emotional leader. GETTY IMAGES

The whole season hinges on Joel Embiid.

The 76ers are finally bustling with young talent also highlighted by Ben Simmons, Markelle Fultz and Dario Saric.

Without their big man, the project will not be complete.

Embiid has yet to be cleared for 5-on-5 action, which has to be mildly surprising. The 7-foot-2 center had surgery on his knee in late March and missed the remainder of the season after playing in only 31 games.

Yes, they were 31 solid games. But 31 games nonetheless after playing zero in is first two seasons.

Embiid wasn't cleared to play in back-to-back games last season. He also had minute restrictions, which was limiting.

The Sixers have 14 back-to-backs this season as they attempt to reach the playoffs for the first time in five seasons.

Training camp will begin at the end of September and it's cloudy as to whether Embiid will be running up and down the court with his teammates.

Plain and simple, Embiid must be on the court with his teammates. They have to develop together. They have to grow together. They have to jell together.

Embiid has to be in the middle of the growth. It's the only way that the Sixers will push forward and ultimately have a chance of advancing to the postseason.

If Embiid wasn't injured, the Sixers would never have had the chance of selecting him third overall in the 2014 draft. They had to wait two seasons before finally seeing glimpses last season of the talent Embiid possesses. It can't be overemphasized – Embiid has All-Star potential and even Hall of Fame potential if he can stay healthy and improve every season.

For all of Embiid's popularity on social media, none of that matters if he's injured or unable to play. Twitter and Facebook and Instagram are terrific social media vehicles, but they can also be distractions if Embiid is in a suit and not in uniform.

The 2017-18 season looks promising for the Sixers. Embiid is the franchise cornerstone, the biggest piece on this roster in every single way.

Fans have to be excited about seeing the likes of Simmons and Fultz. This duo will surely have plenty of shining moments this season.

Everything begins and ends with Embiid. It's that simple.

Embiid must prove his ability to stay healthy and take a leadership role for coach Brett Brown. He must produce All-Star numbers while directing this team.

Training camp is inching closer. The season won't be far behind after that. Embiid needs to be the No. 1 option. It all hinges on the big man.

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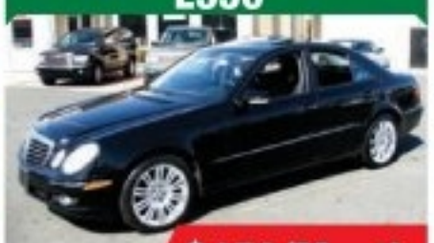
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Eagles secondary: Who starts alongside Darby at cornerback?

Cornerback may be the position with the most unanswered questions — still — on the Eagles current roster.

LUKE MILLER
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The Eagles have a lot of talent, but few sure things among their cornerbacks this training camp. GETTY IMAGES

Adding Ronald Darby to the roost gives the Eagles three surefire starters in the secondary, but when it comes to who'll line up across the field from Darby and who'll make the final cut, training camp and pre-season have a whole lot left to decide.

Here's a look at how the rest of the secondary could shake out:

Locks: *Ronald Darby, Sidney Jones, Rasul Douglas, Malcolm Jenkins, Rodney McLeod*
The Eagles made clear their evaluation of Darby when they sent Jordan Matthews and a draft pick to Buffalo in return for the third-year corner and Darby made his case to the fans while weaving between his former teammates on a long interception return Thursday night.

Jones may not play in 2017 and won't initially take up a spot on the 53-man roster, but the Eagles' second round pick isn't going anywhere. The same is true of Douglas, their third round selection, save the fact that he will be ready to play from Week 1.

Jenkins and McLeod are unchallenged starters at safety, and should build on the chemistry they displayed last season.

Safe Bets: *Jalen Mills, Chris Maragos*
Mills somehow managed to be the brightest young spot on the Eagles defense last year while turning in a roller coaster of performances. The positive feelings about Mills have as much to do with beating expectations for a seventh-round pick as they do his cornerback appropriate mindset.

Eagles secondary depth chart

CB1 Ronald Darby	CB2 Jalen Mills
CB3 Patrick Robinson	CB4 Rasul Douglas
CB5 Ron Brooks	CB6 Aaron Grymes
S1 Malcolm Jenkins	S2 Rodney McLeod
S3 Chris Maragos	S4 Corey Graham

Maragos is at this point synonymous with the Eagles special teams unit and no worse an option as a reserve safety than the other choices on the roster.

Bubble: *Patrick Robinson, Ron Brooks, Aaron Grymes, Corey Graham, Jaylen Watkins, Terrence Brooks*
For the first time in several years the Eagles have several young players cemented at cornerback and a few veterans vying to make the roster. Ron Brooks was expected to man the nickel spot before injury knocked him out of the 2016 season and forced Malcolm Jenkins out of his best role and into the slot. He seems ready to reclaim the position this season.

Less clear is the status of free agent signee Robinson, who has been his own harshest critic this summer. The arrival of Darby may push Robinson's best chance at playing time inside to the nickel, where he would have to win a competition with Brooks. Also in the running is Aaron Grymes, a camp favorite a year ago who missed his chance due to — you guessed it — injury.

Graham joined as a free agent recently and has shaken up the roster battle at both corner and safety. While he has experience at both positions, the Eagles seem keenest on Graham, 32, as a safety, the role he filled in 32 games for Buffalo over the past two seasons.

Practice Squad Watch: *CJ Smith, Mitchell White, Tre Sullivan*
Smith has already been on the Eagles practice squad, but made his way off it to play in 10 games last season. While everyone hopes there is tougher competition for him to get on the field this season, a similar contribution definitely isn't out of the question this season.

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CLASS DAYS & TIME: Monday - Friday • 8:30am - 2:45pm
CONTACT: Mrs. Council-Grant, Recruiter • **215.236.7700 (ext. 325)**
LOCATION: 1231 N. Broad Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19122

REQUIREMENTS:

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- Must bring a **Valid State ID** (school ID not permitted)
- PA/DE & NJ Residents are welcome
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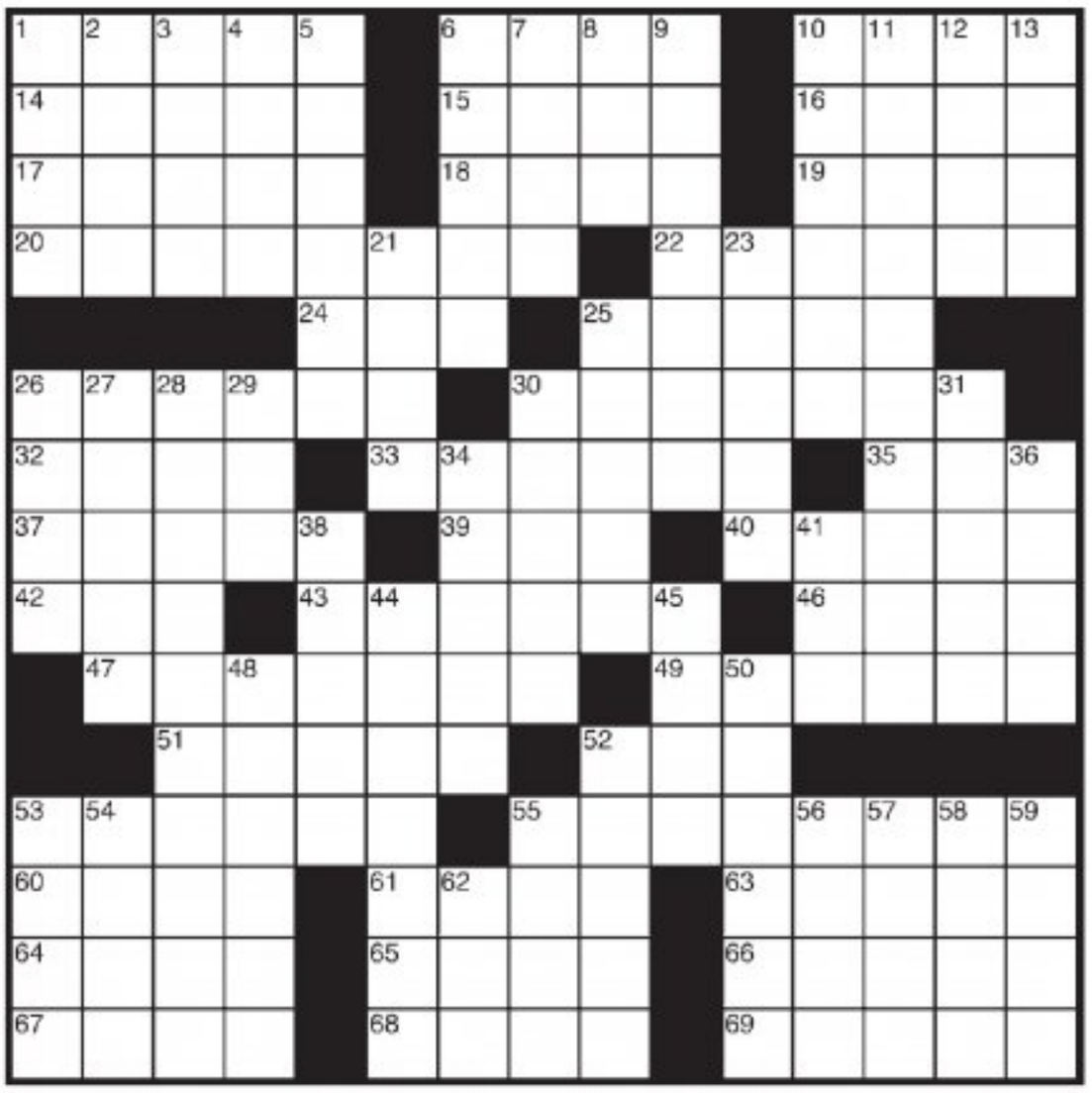
metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Space, poetically
6 Bloke
10 In the distance
14 Jostle
15 Blarney Stone site
16 Corker
17 TV sets
18 Moved on
19 List detail
20 Worried, plus
22 Suffuses
24 Pen part
25 Ramp alternative
26 Confront boldly
30 Lands, as a fish (2 wds.)
32 Lumber along
33 Most aloof
35 Plant crops
37 Remains undecided
39 Short distance
40 – voce (softly)
42 – Mahal
43 Foot, slangily
46 Bumpkin
47 Auto garage jobs
49 Historical periods
51 Polite blokes
52 Pasture sound
53 Ice cream choice
55 Tritest
60 Teeny bit
61 Shepard or Greenspan
63 Performer on stage
64 Travel on snow
65 Encompass
66 Lettuce
67 "I did it!" (hyph.)
68 House wings
69 Pester

Down
1 This, in Havana
2 Hoodlum
3 Tramp
4 Neck and neck
5 Gums
6 Media star
7 Made haste
8 Kennel sound
9 Small sizes
10 Cover stories
11 Ahead of the times
12 Sheltered
13 Sugar cane products
21 Tubular pasta
23 Soda fountain treats
25 Percolates
26 Client mtg.
27 Football shoe part
28 Inflected
29 Not common
30 Civil disturbances
31 V-shaped cut
34 Meat market buys
36 Stir-fry pans
38 Pool member
41 Cry of discovery
44 Scandal
45 Summer to summer
48 Sagebrush State
50 Straw hat
52 Investment category
53 Show of anger
54 "Run – Run"
55 Jung or Sagan
56 Desktop picture
57 School near Windsor Castle
58 Pilot's test
59 Cafeteria tote
62 Dogpatch's – Abner



metro.us/sudoku

easy

	5			3			7	4
3		9	7		6			
2								
8	1		2		9	4	5	
				4				
	9	7	5		3		2	1
								5
			4		2	8		9
7	8			9			6	

hard

7				2	3	1	5	
2	9				1	3		
		1		7				4
				3			7	
			4		2			
	3			6				
4				1		7		
		3	6				1	5
	1	2	3	5				9

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Emotions will be difficult to control. Look for the positive in any situation you face. A challenge should be met with intelligent action, not with brute force.

Taurus Patience will be required when dealing with peers. Joint ventures could turn out to be a nightmare if you and your partner(s) cannot agree on responsibilties.

Gemini Consider the information you have been given and what is pertinent to the situation you face with a partner or someone asking too much of you, and do what's necessary.

Cancer Look for an innovative way to make your home and surroundings more comfortable. A discussion with a friend or relative will motivate you to make a personal adjustment.

Leo Channel your energy into something that will make you happy, give you more time or provide an improved space to pursue your dreams. Discipline will lead to progress.

Virgo Pour your heart and soul into the things you enjoy doing most. Surround yourself with good, hard-working, honest people and aim to reach your goals.

Libra Take better care of your health and protect your reputation. Don't feel the need to make an impulsive change to your lifestyle because someone is pressuring you.

Scorpio Use your charm and sensitivity to win favors and make unique contributions to a cause or effort. Romance is highlighted, but possessiveness must be curbed.

Sagittarius Confusion will take the reins if you are gullible. Question anything that appears sketchy. If you feel you need space, visit a place that offers tranquility.

Capricorn A business meeting will be informative. Share your concerns and offer suggestions that will make what's being offered more enticing. Don't go over budget.

Aquarius Before you commit your time or money to help someone, consider if it will hinder you from taking care of personal responsibilities. Offer good advice.

Pisces Share necessary information, but not your opinions or secrets. A thoughtful gesture will improve a relationship with someone you care about. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

T	E	S	L	A	■	U	G	H	■	S	A	V	E	D
A	V	A	I	L	■	N	E	E	■	U	T	I	L	E
M	E	R	I	T	■	P	O	W	■	B	A	T	I	K
S	R	A	■	O	D	E	■	N	A	R	R	A	T	E
■	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	■	S	O	I	L	E	D
■	■	■	E	N	E	■	A	M	P	S	■	■	■	■
V	E	R	B	A	L	I	Z	E	■	A	M	B	I	T
A	C	H	E	■	S	N	I	D	E	■	A	U	R	A
T	O	O	L	S	■	D	E	S	P	A	I	R	E	D
■	■	■	■	T	O	Y	S	■	E	I	N	■	■	■
T	E	A	C	U	P	■	T	H	E	R	E	B	Y	■
A	L	D	E	N	T	E	■	E	S	S	■	R	A	P
U	B	O	A	T	■	T	A	X	■	H	E	I	R	S
N	O	R	S	E	■	A	D	E	■	O	M	E	N	S
T	W	E	E	D	■	L	A	D	■	W	U	R	S	T

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